

BAKING POWDER

PURE
Delicious and wholesome

a range of 31¢@34¢, and costing from 60¢@ 65¢; clean; other lines of foreign wools are dull of sale. Sales of the week amount to 2,685,500 lbs., against 3,210,500 the previous week.

Sales of domestic:
Ohio and about, 26½¢@27¢.
Ohio No. 1, clothing and combing, 26¢.
Michigan No. 2, 21½¢.
Ohio unwashed delaine, 20¢.
Unwashed and unmerchantable, 18¢@

Indiana and Kentucky, ¼ and ¾ blood, 21¢@22¢.
Missouri and Illinois, 20¢.
¼, ½ and ¾ blood, 20¢@22¢.
Texas, 11¢@13¢.
Spring California, 12¢@13¢.
Territory, 10¢@12¢.
Eastern Oregon, 14¢@15¢.
Felled, 10¢@12¢.
Soured, 28¢@40¢.
Odds and ends, 8¢@30¢.
Sales of foreign wools:
Australian, 18¢@34¢.
South American, 25¢.
Irish, 20¢.
Snow White Capes, 42¢.
Carpet wools, 12¢@24¢.

PORTLAND PRODUCE MARKET.

WEDNESDAY, Jan. 25, 1899.
The wholesale markets are yet quiet, although comparing favorably with the usual January trade. The outlook for business is good, with a decidedly firmer tone to the market. Potatoes firm at 65¢@70¢. Apples firm in this market, and the foreign markets are holding up well. Oranges and lemons steady. Pressed hay steady. In country produce, butter is easier; cheese is firmer; eggs continue easy; beans steady. Mutton and lamba much lower, a rivalry for trade among the beef houses having demoralized the market. Beef in quiet demand, with prices steady. The curculio work the damage formerly experienced? It is our experience that it does not.

Our correspondent, Mr. D. W. suggests a solution to the dog problem by requiring every owner of a dog to keep it on his own premises the same as other live stock. But the trouble is owners of dogs do not keep them for exclusive home use. They want to let them loose on others' territory.
Joseph Meehan, than whom there is no better authority, says that the Japanese plums seem to have the power to resist the curculio. The crescent marks seen on the fruit but no injury seems to result. By the way, does the curculio work the damage formerly experienced? It is our experience that it does not.

The New Jersey station reports eight to fourteen tons, green weight, of corn to the acre on medium soil. The largest amount of digestible dry matter per acre is obtained when planted in drills three and a half feet apart, and with single plants eight to twelve inches apart in the drills. This method provides sufficient room for the plants to develop and to produce a large proportion of ears.

In any attempt to graft the model good roads work of Massachusetts and Connecticut upon our own State, it should be taken into consideration that the treasury of those States is supplied from sources independent of the taxation of the property of the people. Not so in this State. Here all property has to be heavily taxed in order to furnish the money with which to meet State expenses. Supply our State treasury in full through sources independent of taxation and all opposition to "State roads" from rural towns would cease at once.

THE OUTLOOK STILL IMPROVING.
A year ago the *Farmer* assured the stockmen of the State that the outlook for live stock of all kinds was improving. To-day the evidence is still stronger that the congestion in the beef trade is fully past. The signs of a year ago have been verified, and at this time it is still more certain that the better prices will not only be maintained, but will still further improve, and that stockmen may confidently rely on a further advance, and that the higher values will prevail for a prolonged period to come. The great surplus of stock from the ranges has gone by forever.

Cattle receipts from the four great slaughtering markets of the country show a marked falling off in numbers. Up to the middle of last month the combined receipts of cattle at Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and Omaha, for the year, compared with a year ago, show a decrease of 50,000 cattle and 12,000 hogs. The top price for beefs last week at Chicago was six cents less than the year before.

The prices for Texas cattle in that market are the highest since 1884, and the highest on record for the first month of the year. The Montana State Board of Live Stock Commissioners report that the price received for stock was better than for any year in the history of the trade from that State. Stockers are in sharper demand and at relatively higher values than fat cattle. Farmers in our State may rest assured there will be a demand at improved prices for all the stock they can raise and feed. There is a grand outlook ahead. Now is the time to prepare to take advantage of the situation. Raise the good calves.

AUGUSTA JAN. PRODUCE MARKET.
Corrected Jan. 25, for the *Maine Farmer*, by G. W. Wadleigh.
Chickens not plenty. Domestic chicken in brisk demand. Eggs coming in more freely. Potatoes, 10¢@12¢; domestic, 12¢@13¢; foreign, 15¢@17¢; small, 18¢@20¢.
Butter—Westerly, pea beans, \$1.40; Yellow Eyes, \$1.50.
Butter—Ball butter, 16¢@20¢. Creamery, 22¢.
Oranges—Factory, 10¢@12¢; domestic, 10¢@12¢; Sage, 12¢@13¢.
Eggs—Fresh, 23¢@24¢ per dozen.
Lard—In pails, best, 8¢.
Provisions—Wholesale—Clear salt pork, 6¢; beef, per side, 7¢@8¢; ham, smoked, 8½¢; corn, 15¢@16¢; round hog, 5¢; mutton, 6¢@7¢; spring lambs, 6¢@10¢; spring chickens, 10¢@14¢. Native turkeys, 20¢.
Potatoes—5¢@6¢ per bush.
NEW CARBON—1¢ per lb.
TURNIPS—40¢ per bush.
NEW BEETS—40¢ per bush.

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THE MAINE FARMER PUBLISHING CO., Publishers and Proprietors.

"OUR HOME. OUR COUNTRY, AND OUR BROTHER MAN."

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AUGUSTA, MAINE, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1899.

No. 14.

Maine Farmer.

Z. A. GILBERT, Agricultural Editor.

The fate of the food do not make up the fate of the butter.

One advantage of corn as a fodder crop, not generally noted, is the low cost of the seed per acre.

Our correspondent, Mr. D. W. suggests a solution to the dog problem by requiring every owner of a dog to keep it on his own premises the same as other live stock. But the trouble is owners of dogs do not keep them for exclusive home use. They want to let them loose on others' territory.

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gives the *Farmer* the opportunity to put his figures of income in the right setting, and thus relieves our Maine dairymen of the stigma of following a dairy business that does not pay the keep of the cows.

The cream received at the factories is a long way from representing the full income from our cows. The cream is only one item. If this had been brought out clearly in the lecture, instead of leaving it to be heralded abroad that our cows were only returning an income of thirty to thirty-five dollars a year, it would have left Maine dairymen in a better light and the business in better odor. The credits at the factory do not include the veals made at the farm, using the milk in many cases for several months of the best flow, nor that used in raising valuable calves, nor that made into cheese at the factory for a part of the season or at home for family use, nor in the many other ways that a draft is made from the milk for other purposes than that of creaming. Nor does it include the cream made into butter on the farm for home use, nor the important item of skim milk fed to pigs and used in the growing of the valuable heifers from which come the thousands of high priced cows sold yearly from the State. These items, with others not mentioned that properly come in, make up a substantial increase above the figures credited for cream alone, and all together foot up an average cow income that makes the business of dairying a profitable industry among our Maine farmers. Partial statistics are always injurious, even though the fact be stated, and the cows should have full credit or be left out of the tabulated statements.

FANCY BUTTER.

Mr. E. A. Harris of Boston, who was one of the judges of butter at the World's Fair, says about the fancy butter sold in Boston:

"We sell some fancy butter: Darling-ton's at 90 cents, Green Mountain at 75 cents, Sharples at 55 cents. And the maker's name frequently helps the sale. But in nearly all cases the butter is made from the finest cows of the best breeds, such as Jerseys and Guernseys."

"We have in our trade, and I found at Chicago, and at Keene, N. H. and at Great Barrington, Mass., butter made from Guernseys, which was of such color, verging on the red, as to be scored as not being perfect color, notwithstanding it was natural."

"But in nearly all the high-priced butters I have seen there are certain peculiarities that only a trained taste or an epicure would note. There is a velvety grain, a delicacy of flavor, and an indescribable something in it that is not met with in the fine commercial makes."

"It is useless to tell of these prices, as there is always an abundant supply for the limited trade."

MORE TESTIMONY.

Professor Sanborn of New Hampshire was the first dairyman to lay proof before the public of what the *Farmer* has always stoutly maintained, that cows will give more milk by having a reasonable amount of outdoor exercise.

Now, Prof. J. N. Grisdale of Iowa comes forward and states that he has conclusively proved that light, reasonable exercise is not only good but necessary, keeping animals in healthy condition which tends to increase the milk yield.

A farmer in Auburn, in this State, who delivers his milk to customers 'in the city, states that his cows give him more milk when watering them twenty or thirty rods away at running water than when watered in their stalls from a tank in the barn. With that little exercise they never shiver from drinking cold water.

A GRAND COW.

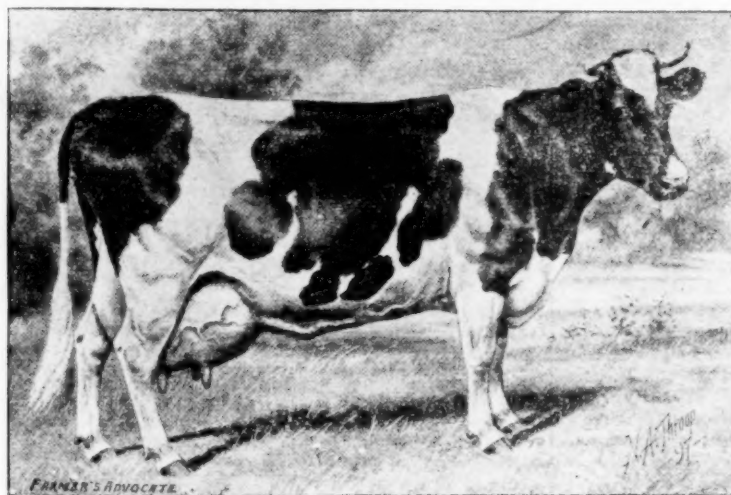
The value of an object lesson cannot be too highly magnified, and the *Farmer* takes pleasure in presenting the fine illustration of a great producer, one who carries the stamp of her individuality in every part of her make up. This cow was tested when six years old by the officers at Cornell University, and made 23 lbs., 8.22 oz. of butter in one week. During this test she gave in one day 100 lbs. of milk. For this out the *Farmer* is indebted to the *Farmer's Advocate*, London, Ontario. In connection with our article on "How Milk is Secreted," the study of the udder of this magnificent specimen becomes of increased interest and value.

COMMON SENSE CARE MORE THAN BREED.

We would like to place the record of our hens by the side of Mrs. S. K. Hinckley's flock. Our flock numbered 26 (24 pullets and two hens) they raised about 40 chicks, and laid 360 dozen and 10 eggs, or 4,320 eggs, or 160½ eggs average for each hen. These were Plymouth Rocks. We insist that the breed does not matter half so much as the common sense care that any flock of any breed ought to receive to do well. We think Mrs. Hinckley "knows what she is about."

TAYLOR'S OHIO HILL FARM.
Fairfield Ctr., Jan. 20, 1899.

A GREAT MODEL FOR SERVICE.



MILK VEINS AND UDDER TO PLEASE.
Angie Grace 2nd's Pliertje. Owned by Henry Stevens & Sons, Laconia, New York.

GOOD THINGS HEARD IN NEW JERSEY.

The largest peach grower in the country, Hon. J. H. Hale of Glastonbury, declared to the writer that "a good apple orchard in Aroostook county would, after twelve years, afford any man in Maine a comfortable living," and that too after a visit to that county. Here is good advice for Maine apple growers:

Mr. Hale has a sorting and packing shed for peaches in Georgia, two hundred and fifty feet long, and found last season that by introducing a band every afternoon, and playing the liveliest music as the day waned, the amount of work accomplished was largely increased. "It proved one of the most profitable features of the year and hereafter there will be good music for my packers." Here is a pointer for others. What pays is always worth trying.

"Dodge the man who is not a lover of fruit and fruit trees. Something is lacking in his make-up."—Mr. Hale.
"If farmers would stop buying fertilizers altogether, save every dollar, and spend their time in thorough tillage they would secure better crops."—J. H. Hale, at Branchville, N. J.

The Japanese plums are to be the popular fruit of the future, hardy, rich and juicy, while the thickness of the skins aids greatly in preventing the attacks of the curculio.—Mr. Hale.

Prof. Smith, entomologist at N. J. Experiment Station: "Kill out worms with bran to which Paris green has been added; 50 parts of bran to one of Paris green, using one spoonful to the hill."

To prevent work of borers, apply Portland cement mixed with skim milk. Paint the trunks of trees by the first of June. It will stick all summer and keep away all moths and borers. "Never use tarred paper as hot sun causes blistering of the bark underneath."

"To kill cucumber bugs, apply land plaster moistened with turpentine about the hills."

"Look sharply for eggs of plant lice on trees you are going to set. They will be found about buds on young shoots. Prune back every tip three inches and burn."

"The successful farmer to-day must be ready for insects by purchase of sprayer."

"Watch out sharply for money root lice on apple trees before setting. Dip in tobacco solution before setting or sift tobacco dust about roots. It is a safe rule to dip all trees before setting."

There are 5,000,000 peach trees grown in New Jersey for sale this spring, and it is estimated that there are 40,000,000 in the country.

Dr. Wiley of Washington, D. C., made a good point in his able plea for pure foods, when he declared that "the only men fed for their business are the prize fighters." Another was "that men should be fed for their business, and investigation would lead to a division of foods for special occupations."

What care should be given as to selecting for herd of cows or sty of pigs? "After bread the most important thing is education." "Every food or condition should be exposed and sold for just what it is." "There should be a lively interest in the breast of every man to secure such legislation as will protect from fraud, by requiring that every article entering in any measure into human foods be put on the market and sold for just what it is. Public health is the one thing to be considered and this depends largely upon the food we eat."

"Keep your ground covered while the trees are growing and bearing. Plant cow peas in drills and the last time you cultivate sow crimson clover. When the frost kills the peas, which are really beans, the clover will show through and grow until it furnishes a grand lot of plant food to be turned in in early spring." This was Mr. Hale's advice to fruit growers.

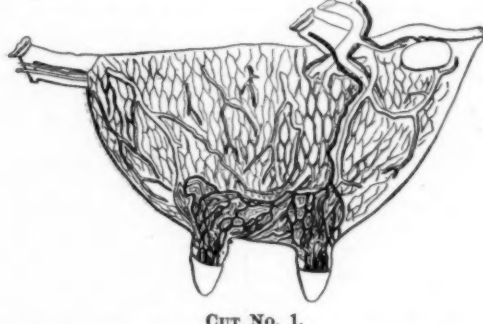
"The man who makes money in a future growing apples, pears, plums or peaches, will be the one who thinks courageously. Quality is to determine value and quality comes by not allowing too much fruit on a tree. The man who never thinks will grow inferior fruit."—J. H. Hale, at Deckertown, N. J.

HOW MILK IS SECRETED.

No problem facing the farmer is more frequently brought home to the individual than this of milk secretion, and none invites more thorough investigation, for only as we come into a closer appreciation of the how and why are we able to increase or control the output. Certain facts related to feed and care, kindness and regularity are in a measure appreciated and the result is seen in the ready

and very slender nerve fibres, the substances to be turned into milk. These smaller ducts form junctions with one another and gradually widen into what are known as milk ducts, terminating in cavities called milk cisterns or reservoirs, four in number, which overlie the four principal teats of the cow as seen in cut 3.

The average capacity of the two milk glands of a cow, with that of the four milk cisterns, runs from 10½ to 11½



Cut No. 1.

MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Peas and Potatoes.

Hon. Aaron Low, of Hingham, addressed the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Saturday morning, Jan. 21, 1899, on "Experimental Work in Field and Garden." He said, in part: Experimental agricultural work, to be of value, should be conducted through a number of years. For example, the past year was excessively moist and there was comparatively little sunshine, so that the conditions of strong, healthy growth were wanting. The experiments thus conducted will necessarily be unsatisfactory.

Experiment No. 1. Peas. This is one of the first vegetables to be planted, so a piece of light, sandy soil was ploughed April 16 and planted April 17, as follows: Rows were furrowed three feet apart and blood, bone and potash fertilizer scattered in the drills and well mixed with the soil. Planted two rows each of Alaska, Nott's Excelsior and Advance. The vines grew finely and bore abundantly. Alaska was earliest, giving well-filled peas June 20. Nott's Excelsior, June 23. Advance not ready for picking till July 6. Nott's Excelsior is similar to American Wonder, but is stronger growing and will probably supersede it. In the second plot, planted ten days later, with Nott's Excelsior and American Wonder, all-soluble brand of fertilizer was used. The Excelsior proved the stronger growing vine, but that was the only apparent difference in the two varieties. The fertilizer was quick in action, but was deficient in carrying it out to the end of the year.

Experiment No. 2. Sweet Corn. Ploughed at the same time as the plot of peas. Harrowed April 29. Furrowed in rows three feet apart. Blood, bone and potash fertilizer used, a handful being dropped in the drills three feet apart and well mixed with the soil. The corn was dropped April 30, and covered lightly with hand hoe. Planted two rows each of Early Melrose, Early Rouben, Low's Perfection, Early Champion, Early Quincy Market and Bear's Foot. Quincy Market came a week the earliest, followed by Perfection and Early Melrose. No perceptible difference in appearance or earliness between Early Melrose and Early Champion. They were so similar that I should judge they were the same variety. Early Rouben, though one of our best, did not, so early as I expected. Bear's Foot, a new variety, is very sweet and tender, and well worth a trial.

Experiment No. 3. Potatoes. In the first week of April I selected the most uniform tubers I had of the following kinds: Early Fortune, Early Essex, Pearl of Savoy, Early Harvest and Early White Ohio. I spread them out on benches in the glass house and left them to the influence of heat and sunshine. I left them till May, when the eyes had started nicely, the stout, green sprouts being from one-half to one inch long. In placing potatoes under glass always put them out singly so that they will have light as well as heat. Then they will have strong, green sprouts, which will bear handling in putting them out, whereas, if grown light colored, they will rub off easily. The land was ploughed at the same time as that in the previous experiments, was well harrowed May 3, and furrowed in rows three feet apart. Armour's blood, bone and potash fertilizer was scattered in the rows, one-half ton to the acre, and well mixed with the soil. As this was a special experiment on starting potatoes well before planting, I did not take them from the glass house till May 4. They were out carefully to two eyes apiece and placed in the bottom of the drill one foot apart, and all sprouts covered two to three inches deep with light soil. The weather was favorable and they soon appeared above ground. As they were all early kinds they were fully grown before the potato beetles made their appearance and were not much troubled by them. The piece was cultivated twice and the last time the rows were ridged slightly, but no hand hoeing was given. The first potatoes were dug June 22 and were of good size, smooth, and of fine quality. All were dug by July 20 and averaged six bushels to a row, were large, smooth, and handsome and had no signs of scab. The above experiment was very satisfactory in showing the advantage of starting potatoes very early so that they make their growth before the potato beetle appears, and mature their tubers before the blight usually comes. Early Fortune and White Ohio were the new kinds planted. The first named was one of the earliest, and first-class in all respects. The Ohio I should not recommend from this trial, as the tubers were small and of inferior quality. The conditions of growth seemed perfect to all varieties but this.

Experiment No. 4. Potatoes. This was conducted on different lines from the previous experiment; first, to determine if possible the difference, if any, in value of seed potatoes grown in different latitudes as well as the comparative value of the prominent varieties now in cultivation; second, to determine the efficiency of various methods of preventing scab on tubers, also the blight on vines.

In accordance with the first part of the experiment I selected various varieties of potatoes from different latitudes, planting two rows, each fifty feet long, of each kind. They were planted May 25, on commercial fertilizer scattered in the rows, 800 pounds to the acre, and well mixed by horse and cultivator before dropping in the potatoes. They were also covered by horse and cultivator in the same manner. There was so much wet weather that the growth was not so vigorous as it should have been. Paris green was twice applied as a preventive of the potato beetle. A blight appeared on the vines the first of July and three applications of Bordeaux Mixture were made, but as in each case rain followed in a few hours, the effect was much impaired. The varieties that stood the blight the longest were Carman No. 1 and No. 3, Enormous and Uncle Sam—all late potatoes. Under more favorable conditions, however, I think a thorough application, early in

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the season would pay well, checking the blight on its first appearance and giving the vines a longer time to perfect their crops.

The most highly recommended remedy for scab on the potato is soaking the seed potatoes in a solution of corrosive sublimate for 1 1/2 hours, as per formula of the experiment station at Amherst. Another method is to scatter flour of sulphur in the rows when the potatoes are planted. Both methods seemed equally good, as the potatoes were free from scab, while, where neither was applied, many potatoes were scabby. The yield was as follows:

Early Harvest, 2 rows, New York seed, 2 bu. our own, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu.
Rural N. York, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu.
Carman No. 1, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu.
Carman No. 3, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu.
Rochester Rose, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu.
Proctor's Rose, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu.
Enormous, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu.
Uncle Sam, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu. New York, 234 bu.

The variety giving the largest yield was Enormous, a late potato from Vermont; the next was Rochester Rose, from Gregory; and the third Carman No. 3, from our own seed. Much has been said lately about restoring worn-out or exhausted lands to a productive fertility, and experiments have been conducted with various plants to determine their relative value in restoring the needed elements of fertility to the soil. A number of kinds have been imported from foreign countries said to be particularly adapted for this purpose in the immense amount of green material they produce for ploughing under. I have tried a number of those recommended and will briefly give the results.

Australian Salt Bush. Said to flourish in the driest localities where even grass will not live. Will produce heavy crops of nutritious food for stock. The season was too moist and evidently there was not enough sunshine for its perfect development. I shall give it another trial another season. It is of trailing habit, each plant covering the ground for several feet, and has small narrow leaves thickly set on slender branches. Cattle, sheep and hogs seem very fond of it and it is said to be very nutritious.

Dwarf Essex Rape. Highly spoken of for green manuring, producing immense weight. Said to be twice as nutritious as clover in fattening stock. Can be sown from May till July, is a rapid grower, and will furnish by the middle of September as large a crop as can be ploughed under. I sowed between one and two acres in June, and when turned under, in September, it was from two to two feet high. Rape was at once sown upon the land and next May I shall plough under the rape crop, planting the land at once to corn, thus testing the value of green manuring on light sand soils.

Cow Peas have a high reputation, especially in the South, as a renovator of worn-out lands. They can be sown in May, 1 to 1 1/2 bushels per acre, and should be ploughed under as soon as they have made their full growth. They are very prolific in seed, bearing from 20 to 25 bushels per acre. The vines are very much relished by all farm stock. Soja Bean. Of all known plants this is the most highly recommended by the experiment stations for ploughing under as green manuring. It is the greatest gatherer of nitrogen from the air during growth, and when ploughed under, returns to the soil a large per cent. of that element in its most available form. I found it most satisfactory; it grew strong and stocky, and when ready to plough under was two feet high. It seemed better able to withstand early frosts than the Cow Pea. It can be sown either broadcast or in drills two feet apart. I prefer the latter, as the cultivator can be run between the rows, thus keeping them free from weeds. It is productive of seeds, which, ground into meal, are said to be excellent for stock feeding.

I have practised sowing winter rye on all lands available in August and September. It forms a thick matted growth before winter sets in, and is a good protection from the wash of heavy rains and from the soil being blown away by strong winds. I desire to emphasize the utility of ploughing under green crops, to every farmer who has light, sandy soil, as every farmer of much needed element of fertility, which long cultivation has largely exhausted. Another important point in the marked resistance to drought which crops growing upon it always show.

In growing cabbages on land where rye was ploughed in, I have noticed their entire freedom from destructive insects, in marked contrast to adjoining lands where cabbages were growing without the green manuring.

Farmers and market gardeners often say that they have more confidence in a heavy dressing of stable manure than in any of the commercial fertilizers in the market. In the vicinity of large cities, where the cost of hauling stable manure

is very little, it would pay to use it; but in the country the cost would be much more by the time that it was delivered, bringing it to too high a figure to leave any profit on its use. In an experience of twenty years in using both stable manure and fertilizers on almost all kinds of garden vegetables, I have come to the conclusion that I can grow better crops on the same amount of money's worth of fertilizer than of stable manure. The question is not as to the reliability of stable manure, but as to the amount that the crops cost, and when the cost is more than the product returned the farmer must endeavor to reduce that cost. I firmly believe that farmers, by using a high grade of fertilizers, or chemicals, supplementing their use by ploughing under green crops, can produce most of their crops at a less cost than when using stable manure.

For the Maine Farmer.

CLIMATE AND FRUITS OF CALIFORNIA.

LOS GATOS, CAL., Jan. 12, 1899.

Dear Readers of the Maine Farmer:

After a pleasant and uneventful ride across the continent in this season of cold and storms, I find myself delightfully located in this charming locality, named by the Spaniards, Los Gatos, meaning in English "The Cats."

At the Christianizing of this unusual there must have been an unusual scarcity of saints among the early godfathers. May be they thought San José and Santa Clara, ten and fifteen miles away, would sanctify the rest of the county. These saints, however, seem to have lived only at the Mission or Catholic schools, established by the Padres or primitive Jesuit missionaries, San Francisco, San Rafael, Santa Barbara, etc., to the number of thirty or more. Most of these missions are now of interest chiefly as objects of antiquity, hardly interesting enough of their crumbling adobe walls to indicate their ancient grandeur and importance.

Los Gatos, as now seen, is a substantial village of about two thousand inhabitants, with a surrounding country of half as many more. The chief business interests of this place, as well as the rest of the country, are in fruit culture. Prunes, peaches and apricots are the leading fruits. From here to San José, ten miles, orchard lands making one continuous stretch of fruit bearing trees, and from what I have seen, great care is given the planting and pruning of the trees, as well as cultivation of the soil. In this side of ten miles scarcely a weed or blade of grass or grain can be seen under or around the trees. During the past year of drought, frequent stirring of the surface soil was given to prevent the evaporation of the moisture of its deeper soil. Many went over the ground as many as ten and fifteen times with disk harrows and cultivators securing good crops.

Strange as it seems, the hill soil has been less affected by the drought than the valley lands. Los Gatos is in the "foot hills" of the Santa Cruz mountains and was not seriously injured by the past two years' drought. In place of the drought, with its devastation of many homes in California the past year, it is now raining a 14, when all travel was by stage, and passengers after paying their fare carried fence poles with which to pry the stage out of mired places. This quality of the soil by which it changes from a firm, solid surface in dry weather to soft mud in wet, exists over a great part of the State. At this moment the ground is soaked with rain that continues to pour, reminding one of the Oratorio "Elijah."

"The water gathers, it pours along." Last week the traders and bankers, as well as farmers, were terrified lest another year of dry weather might come to them. Doubtless no storm for many years has gladdened so many hearts as this. How many will learn the lesson taught by Elijah to idolaters of his day that despite all the wondrous powers of the sun it is not to be worshipped as the giver of life. The fertile valleys of California, as well as of Palestine, need something more than sunshine to make them fruitful. (This Santa Clara) is the banner county of the State for prunes. Many thousands tons are shipped out of the county every year. Orchards of this choice fruit vary from five to one thousand acres. Five acres is said to suffice when wisely handled to support a small family. The trees come into full bearing the eighth or tenth year. One of the chief enemies to the life of the tree is the gopher. This creature is as large as a small rat and lives under ground burrowing its way from tree to tree. It is almost never seen above the ground and is therefore difficult to trap or kill.

Prune Culture.

Much skill and pains are used in preparing the prune, as well as other fruits, for market. First comes the grading according to size. This is done by passing the prunes down a long wire sieve, with meshes of increasing size, not unlike the bolting sieve of the flour mill. Next the fruit is immersed for thirty seconds in boiling water, strongly impregnated with lye. After this insect-killing douche, it is washed in pure, cold water. It is then spread on large wooden trays and hauled to the open hillside to dry in the sun. This drying takes about three or four days. The fruit is then placed in piles to sweat. After two weeks the fruit is again immersed in boiling water, this time without the lye. It is now ready to be packed for market. Prunes thus prepared for market are kept in this cloth sacks; the sugar naturally in them keeps them from decay for a long time.

The orchardist realizes from three to eight or ten cents a pound, according to grade. Six or eight grades are recognized by the trade. The number of prunes that it takes to make a pound establishes its grade. San Francisco "prices current," at this time, quotes 40s to 50s (first grade) at 7 cents a pound, and the 110s to 120s at 1 1/2 cents. Taking a medium figure, say four cents a pound, we have eighty dollars a ton. An orchard of thirty acres, that I can see from my window, yielded in the day year 1898, twenty-five tons of prunes after they were dried. These at the above medium price give \$2000, deducting \$200 for labor, and leave its owner the net sum of \$1800 for the year's crop.

Apricots and peaches are manipulated differently, but give a corresponding profit. Cherries and grapes are extensively cultivated.

Los Gatos is noted for its healthful atmosphere and picturesque scenery. Invalids with pulmonary diseases claim to have been much benefited by its climate. Two mineral springs of some notoriety are near the town. Mount Hamilton crown with the celebrated Clark observatory is seen thirty miles to the East. A narrow gauge railroad running from San Francisco to Santa Cruz, passes through this place, several trains each day, on which is charged three cents a mile. I find many things new and interesting to a "tender foot," as they call new comers here, but not to be tedious, will bring my hasty letter to a close.

BREED STOCK NOTES.

A. R. Sedgley is a thirty year farmer of West Freeman, and on his farm there is a sap orchard of some 4000 trees.

Mr. Sedgley has been in the maple syrup line for some time, but this season he concluded to enlarge his plant, and has built a new sap house, one of the best in this part of the State, and has bought a Champion evaporator of C. H. Grimm & Co., Rutland, Vt. This is the largest evaporator ever shipped into Franklin county; together with the evaporator, he has all of the improved apparatus for the business, at an expense of \$1000. He has 300 rods of galvanized pipe that runs from the evaporator to the sap orchard; there are tunnels every few rods in this pipe which save the carrying of the sap any distance. It runs through this pipe to the sap holder, and from there to the evaporator. His sap pails and spiles are of the improved order, every sap bucket has a cover. Mr. Sedgley being a busy young man, and noted for square dealing by all around him, we predict a success in this line of work.

O. Byron, Phillips, is another man who has seen the importance of raising stock the past few years, and now finds himself with so many on hand that he has had to build an addition to his barn in order to have room to tie them up. He keeps a four-year-old Durham bull which is of good make up; his cows and heifers are mostly Durhams. Mr. Byron also keeps a large flock of sheep, some good ewes, and is one of the prosperous farmers of the day.

T. B. Hunter, Phillips, P. O., West Freeman, is one of the old subscribers to the Maine Farmer. Mr. Hunter said his father took it before him, from the time nearly of its first issue, and it has remained in the family to the present day, and Mr. Hunter said he considered it, at the present time, one of the most progressive, up-to-date papers in the State. Mr. Hunter moves from his country home this winter, to Strong Village, where he owns a fine stand of buildings. This he does as usual, to spend the winter more comfortably. He will return, as usual, in the spring, to his country residence, where he usually takes summer boarders. Mr. Hunter has sold 75 barrels of apples this season, and says the texture of apples is good in his vicinity. He also has a fine flock of sheep.

C. M. Smith, Greenville, is a young farmer who farms upon business principles. He is a young man who is always ahead of his work. He has a large farm and it is under a good state of cultivation. His stock consists of 18 head, of which are the following: a pair of 7-ft. oxen that can easily be made to give 7 ft. 6 in.; another pair of oxen and a fancy pair of three-year-old Holstein steers. He keeps a Durham, and also a Jersey bull; the balance of his stock are cows and heifers. He has a flock of 50 sheep, and keeps two horses. Mr. Smith is one of the thirty year farmers of the town.

A well known buyer of stock in this State, who has made a practice of shipping cattle to Brighton market each week for quite a number of years is authority for the statement that cows are held at higher prices in the section about Newport than elsewhere in the State. He ascribes as reason the prices paid for milk at the condensed milk factory and the fact that the farmers receiving good returns own a better grade of stock and value their animals higher.

S. F. Brackley, West Freeman, is one of the good farmers of the town of Freeman. He is, this fall, repairing his house, and putting it in first class shape. Mr. Brackley has 24 cows and heifers, and always keeps a Jersey bull. He makes his own butter and has customers for the same. We noticed Mr. Brackley's young stock in the field as we were riding by, and were pleased to see so large a herd of fine young heifers growing up.

Harris & Fellows, the stock dealers, have shipped during the year 1898, 40 head per week, also 90 calves per week. They are also heavy shippers of sheep and are nicely situated to handle stock. Their barn is a model, fitted for the purpose of conveniently handling a large lot of cattle. They can turn their stock into the yard and load them, as the cows pass within a rod of the barn; they are also situated so they can be easily reached by wire or telephone, and are within three minutes walk of the post office. The farm cuts 75 tons of hay annually. You will see each week heavy shipments to the Brighton market from Harris & Fellows in this paper. They say the Maine Farmer gives them the most correct market reports of any paper they can get.

G. A. French, Phillips, is dealing largely in stock as usual; he buys and sells both cattle and sheep; he makes a specialty of shipping cows. Mr. French is well liked to deal with, consequently does lots of business.

PAINT TALK—XIII.

Paint as an Investment.

In the whole field of domestic economy there is nothing that yields better returns to the property owner than paint. Paint costs less than repairs and paint avoids the necessity of making repairs.

All of the wood work of the house, including the roof, should be protected by paint, obviating the necessity of constant repairs and making the material covered practically indestructible by the ordinary action of the elements, while increasing the renting or selling value of the house by making it attractive.

The sanitary value of good paint is also very great, as it preserves a smooth and impervious surface which discards breeding microbes can find no lodgment. This is an important reason why the walls of living and sleeping rooms should be covered with paint instead of paper. Besides, a painted surface remains cleaner and more wholesome than paint, as it can be washed and disinfected without injuring it.

Paint is a security of it is always a profitable investment, particularly if the paint be a durable one. The combination paints based on zinc white are the most durable and as they usually contain a good bulk of paint, at cost less per pound than pure white lead paints, there is double economy in their use. A properly compounded zinc combination containing only pure linseed oil and the necessary driers will usually stand in excellent condition for eight to twelve years without requiring renewal, and one coat at the end of that time will put it in its original condition. A pure lead and oil paint will usually stand after standing a year; it will need renewal within three years, and if let stand five or eight years without renewal, will require two coats to put it in good condition.

The addition of twenty per cent. of zinc to the last coat of the original work will retard this deterioration to some extent, but a good combination paint containing zinc white and pure linseed oil or barytes or both in pure linseed oil is preferable and will prove the best investment the owner can put into his property.

STANTON DUDLEY.

Married.

In Bangor, Jan. 4, Miss Mary E. Putnam of Bangor, Vt., to Miss Daniel E. Furlong of Bangor.

In Bangor, Jan. 8, Morris W. Rowe of Bangor, to Mrs. Mary A. Libby of Bangor.

In Bangor, Jan. 12, Charles W. Larrabee of Bangor, to Miss Sarah Kelly of Bangor.

In Bangor, Jan. 14, Cyrus D. Wiggins of Bangor, to Miss Nettie M. Stevens of Bangor.

In Bangor, Jan. 16, Henry P. Cunningham of Bangor, to Miss Meda Hennessey of Bangor.

In Bangor, Jan. 18, Frank P. Collins of Bangor, to Miss Mary E. Libby of Bangor.

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In Bangor, Jan. 26, Charles W. Larrabee of Bangor, to Miss Sarah Kelly of Bangor.

In Bangor, Jan. 28, Charles W. Larrabee of Bangor, to Miss Sarah Kelly of Bangor.

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COLOR and flavor of fruits,

size, quality and appearance of vegetables,

weight and plumpness of grain,

are all produced by Potash.

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FOR BANGOR: Leave Portland, 7:00 A. M.; 1:15 P. M.; 7:30 P. M.

Sundays only, via Brunswick, Aug. 1898.

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Maine Farmer.

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JOSEPH H. MANLEY, President.
GEORGE M. TWITCHELL, Editor and Manager.

THURSDAY, FEB. 2, 1899.

ONLY AGRICULTURAL NEWSPAPER IN MAINE.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING:

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Mr. J. E. McCormick is calling upon subscribers in Penobscot county.

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Sample Copy sent on application.

Try the Maine Farmer for one month.

This issue of the Maine Farmer will be found of unusual interest and no page should be neglected.

Don't hold the legislators responsible for the "freak" measures being presented. Wait for the records of their votes and judge by those alone.

If Gov. Powers will use his blue pencil to keep in line with his pen, he will scratch a good many measures, and the plea for economy will be made to mean something when the final summing up is made.

The patrons of Maine are united against any increase of salaries, however they may be justified. Their position is consistent, they stand for economy and retrenchment, and it will be well if their voices are heard. Keep down the State tax and reduce appropriations.

Whether a corporation brings to the Maine Treasury \$5,000 or \$50,000 in the form of a fee for being incorporated is not the question to be considered, much as money is wanted by the State, but whether the legislation necessary will result in good to the State at large and for all time.

One measure before the legislature should receive favorable action without delay. It provides for a better observance of Memorial Day, and the abolishing of all games and sports. Let this resolve become a law and then let public sentiment demand obedience and it will be well for all classes.

We would call attention to the able and interesting paper on the 3d page, by Mrs. Frank L. Mosely, on "Children as Educators," delivered before the Woman's Federation at the State House. We wish all might have had the privilege of hearing Mrs. Mosely as her interesting, charming manner captivated all her listeners.

The address by Prof. G. W. Flint, the new President of the Connecticut Agricultural College, published on the first page, will be found a most concise argu-

VERY subscriber to the Maine Farmer has neighbors who do not know the character of the work it is seeking to do. A little effort on the part of each one would double the circulation of the farmers' organ of Maine. This would allow the publishers to largely increase the scope of the work they desire to do. Not an issue of the Maine Farmer but contains helpful hints to the dairyman, stock grower, poultry keeper, horseman, or lover of the home and young folks, of far greater value than the cost of the paper. Not an issue but deals with the live questions of the day from the standpoint of the farmer. Taxation, legislation, appropriations, and all public matters receive prompt attention, economy and a wise expenditure always being urged. Will you not loan your copy to some one not a subscriber, or send the name of such persons to this office, that during the year the Maine Farmer may be able to make weekly visits to twice as many families as on January 1, 1899? Read the grand list of premiums offered in another column.

ment for education. His conception of his work is to build up agriculture by a tight education, and only when the primary object of the institution is realized will other departments be added.

While the insurance companies take no part in the attempted legislation to remove the arbitration clause, and open the way to endless litigation, the fact appears that increased rates will follow such action. This is inevitable as the expenses of litigation will be heavy and must be borne by the insured. No more unjust measure could be presented.

Through an oversight in making up the first form of this issue, the last of the very interesting letter upon fruit growing in California, got divorced from the second, and united with the third-page item, while the signature of the author, Miss Vesta A. Brown, formerly of Vassalboro, was lost entirely. This we much regret, as the article is one of great interest.

The bill against exorbitant rates of interest, presented last week, should have a prompt passage. It is aimed at a most unjust and unequal practice. Out of his necessities a man was obliged to hire money, lately, and although giving ample security in the form of personal property, was forced to pay four per cent a month. Forty-eight per cent seems pretty near robbery.

No one can question the wisdom of the action of the finance committee voting one thousand dollars for two years to the homes at Belfast, Woodford and Deering. They are saving fallen women by helping them to be true to themselves, and caring for children without homes until suitable homes can be provided, thus keeping from the street and the Reform or Industrial school. Such work saves by preventing crime and lawlessness.

Maine owes a debt to the efforts of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture and the legislature of that State. But for the efforts of the Board and the appropriations by the State legislature, New England, to-day, would be overrun by the Gypsy Moth, one of the most destructive insect pests known. It is surprising that with a liberal appropriation these pests have been kept in the original territory. Their extermination is a necessity, or our forests will all be lost.

Senator Mason of Illinois, having quoted at length from an editorial in the Maine Farmer, during his speech in the U. S. Senate, has aroused a tempest in a teapot. Those who ignore the voice of the agricultural press are prompt to ascribe a sinister motive to whatever may appear in print. Never mind, the agricultural press of this country is dealing with the live problems of to-day from the standpoint of the farmer, and his rights will yet be recognized and respected.

Of the 22 or more candidates, from the Republican party, for the place made vacant by the death of Hon. Nelson Dingley, not a single farmer is included. Hasn't the second district a live, progressive, energetic man on some one of its farms, who will protect the varied interests as well as a lawyer? If not, there is a demand for more attention being given the study of political economy, and if there is, why should not the farmers of that district unite to make his calling and election sure?

In Illinois they are organizing a "farmers' party," which has for its object the nomination and election of farmers to Congress and State legislatures. Class legislation of any kind is always dangerous, and this is sure to follow class influence. It would be well for Congress and the State legislatures if more farmers were members, but not simply because they are tillers of the soil, but rather because, from the ranks on the farm may be selected as brave, earnest, faithful, conscientious and efficient public servants as from any other profession. Let us have more men from the farms in public places.

Said Admiral Dorey in a letter to Mr. Hamilton Brown of London, editor of the British Reclam: "After many years of wandering I have come to the conclusion that the mightiest factor in the civilization of the world is the imperial policy of England." The truth of this statement cannot be questioned as one examines the map and notes the presence of the English flag. The persistent policy of the English government to plant itself strongly and firmly has given it the position now held. Loyalty to England, first and last and all the time has been the sentiment and this of itself surely bring results.

OUR EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS.

From the annual report of State School Superintendent Stetson, the Farmer makes liberal extracts, touching points of momentous importance to every parent, scholar and friend of the State of Maine. In connection with this, attention is called to the able address by President Flint of the Storrs' Agricultural College of Connecticut, published on the first page, as emphasizing the necessity for mental training for special as well as general work in life.

Prof. Stetson says: "We are trying to do too many things. We are not doing anything thoroughly. We are studying too many subjects. We are not mastering any of them. We have too many centers or units of study. It is not possible for a child to divide his attention among a dozen different subjects each day without being injured. Our children are suffering from the effects of doing a little of everything, and doing nothing well. They have become dissipated by dissipating their energies over too large a field. They have been everything by turns and nothing long. They have had a little of this, less of something else, and they have not acquired much that will be helpful to them in after years."

"The scope and purpose of the common schools have either been forgotten, or are not properly conceived. It is the duty of school officials and teachers to realize that the first work of the public school is to train the child to see, to accumulate, to think. In developing these powers he must be so trained that he can read, cipher, write. When these things are well done the child is better prepared for life than a large proportion of the children who leave our schools. We must have more drill, more mastery, more definite knowledge of what we study. These conditions can never obtain generally until the vagueness which surrounds the work of the schools has been replaced by definite aims, thorough work and intelligent instruction. Children must have the opportunity and training which will give them poise, skill, strength. They will get these in schools where they have an opportunity to settle down to the deliberate, continuous and close study of a few subjects, and follow these out in their tributary lines, and in these tributaries get the training necessary to breadth and vision. We are coming to see that involved abstractions belong to maturer years; that it is possible to imbecile children by anaesthetizing them with facts and ideas beyond their powers of comprehension, and beyond their capacity to hold in solution. We shall make a departure worthy of the age when we act on the decision that there are some subjects that should not be included in the course of study for common schools and that the college and university still have a field of labor and an excuse for being. We are suffering from the evil effects of too many studies, too great elaboration of details, and too intricate and difficult investigations. In a word, the children need less theoretic philosophy, and more practical activity."

"We have not placed a proper estimate on the value of quiet, serenity, steadiness, and have not duly appreciated the evils arising from irritation, excitement, restlessness. We are beginning to feel the need of repose, meditation, thoughtfulness. It is dawning upon us that we are giving too much instruction that the children are becoming incapable of learning. Teachers and parents are beginning to see that so much work has been done for the children that they are losing the desire and ability to learn."

No stronger arraignment of the false systems being urged by town school superintendents and boards of directors, could be imagined, than the above. The cramming system in the public schools to-day, wherever an attempt is made at regular courses of study, is an injury to the child and destructive of the real purpose of an education. There is a world of significance in the following sentences taken from this admirable report, and we regret that space does not allow more copious notes:

"We spend nine years in striving to teach the children in the public schools to read. The success attained is not encouraging to the child or flattering to the teacher. Competent judges have stated that the average child, when he has completed what is known as the common school studies, cannot pronounce words correctly, does not know their meaning, cannot extract the pith from the sentences and paragraphs read, does not read in such a way as to be understood by the listener, and in no sense is able to master the printed page."

"No training is efficient which leaves the child in doubt as to the value of a word, its place in the sentence, and the relation to other words which will give it its greatest potency."

"One cannot learn to read without having read the best that has been written. One cannot learn to read without reading the best many times. Whatever of history, geography, nature, one can master while studying his reading lesson is well and good. But before all and after all, the great purpose of the reading lesson is a mastery of the printed page. If the child fail in this his work has been in vain. If he succeed in this he is in the way to get a liberal education."

"We spend nine years striving to teach the children in the public schools to cipher. The success attained is not encouraging to the child or flattering to the teacher."

"We spend five years in striving to teach the children in the public schools a usable knowledge of geography. The success attained is not encouraging to the child or flattering to the teacher."

"The child can best learn about the world in which he lives by studying the schoolroom in which he is domiciled, the schoolyard in which he plays, the town in which he lives, the county in which his town is located, the State and country of which he is a citizen."

"Something must be radically wrong when a child can attend school until he is 15 years of age, receiving instruction in language and grammar during every year of his school life, and yet go out into the world as ignorant of the simple

forms of good English as if he never had seen the inside of a schoolhouse.

"Our mistakes have consisted in thinking that we could become accomplished in the use of language by acquiring a familiarity with etymology, syntax and prosody as taught in text-books."

"While it is true that we have but a limited use for oral spelling in daily life, and while it is also true that most of the instruction in spelling at the present time is given in the form of written exercises, yet it is nevertheless true that a large proportion of the young people of the present time find it difficult to spell the words they have to write. The old fashioned spelling school not only had a mission but served an important purpose. It made people familiar with the words which composed the vocabularies of all classes. This familiarity in the end gave some facility in the use of words. After a time, the source from which words were derived, their meanings and force were studied, and hence people acquired a certain propriety and dignity in the use of language."

"We must so administer our schools that the children will acquire the ability to read, cipher, write."

"To repeat, we must have fewer centers or units of study. We must have definitely outlined in our minds what we are to do; then we must set ourselves resolutely to its accomplishment. If we can group the things the child should know around a smaller number of subjects, we shall enable him to develop those strong qualities of attention, concentration, application."

When these lessons are drilled deeply into the public mind and parents realize the necessity for personal supervision over the schools, and frequent contact with the teachers, our common school system will be planted firmly on solid foundations, and the fundamentals of a good education be the one thought with parent, scholar and teacher."

WORK AHEAD FOR MAINE DAIRYMEN.

With the opening of a new year come the opportunities and necessity for greater activity along different lines of agricultural work. The growth of our dairy interests, fostered as it has been by the Board of Agriculture and grange, has been something phenomenal, and yet it is to-day but in its infancy. In years to come it will, if wisely directed, be the great money earning industry of the farm, converting the raw products grown into the golden butter which will always delight the palate of the epicure."

The educational field open to the Board and grange, is wide and limitless, and Sec'y McKee acts wisely in keeping up his discussions of means and methods. We have now reached a point where specified work is to be done, and this is outside the pale of the Board of Agriculture. It has to do with fixing the place which the Maine product shall occupy in the market, and establishing the fact that all the steps are taken which, in any way, could influence quality."

Out of this necessity has come the State Dairymen's Association, organized for a specific purpose, and directed entirely by practical dairymen. Organized effort alone can accomplish what now is demanded, and this we have in this new association. A closer union must be established between the man who produces the cream and who markets the product. One town in Maine, and that a large one, has in a single portion fifty farmers who market from fifty to one hundred pounds of butter weekly. At seventy-five pounds the total delivery from that one town to the city is 195,000 lbs. No one doubts but under wise supervision of barns, tie-ups, care of cattle, and cleanliness, even where good practices hold, from one to two cents per pound could be added to the price realized. Carry two thousand dollars to that town to be distributed yearly, and immense good would result. Yet this is just what the Maine Dairymen's Association proposes to do for the entire State."

More than this there is the certainty that the larger markets rate butter from a commercial standpoint, and that local influences price. This has been proven so often that no argument is necessary. This association proposes to make Maine the one locality where highest quality is to be found, and give the State the front rank in the butter as in the cream market. To do this, there must be inter-State exhibitions, where, under like conditions, the butter from all New England States can go in competition and its merit be established. The experiment tried at the State Dairy Conference has but kindled anew the demand for a genuine inter-State exhibition."

The Board of Agriculture is to be congratulated on what it did in this direction, but the work must now be taken up by some organized power able to deal directly with it, whether the gathering be in Maine or Vermont. There is no room for conflict here. The work of the Board of Agriculture is and must be general, dealing with all the varied agricultural interests of the State; the work of the State Dairymen's Association must be specific, dealing only with the dairy interests, and having to do with the steps from the cow to the consumer. Does any one question the pecuniary benefits that are to accrue to the State if this body of men are given power to suggest and oversee the details by which an improved product may be secured? It is impossible to estimate the average award in revenue under the wise and earnest influence of a live Dairymen's Association. New Brunswick furnishes a marked illustration of what wise supervision can accomplish in a few years' time in raising the standard of quality in dairy products."

The New Age Agin It.

Biennial sessions of the legislature have cost the State \$10, where they have saved \$1. Annual sessions may not be popular with our State House officials, but they would result in better legislation and less expenditure of money. It takes nearly all of one session to educate the average new representative so that he is good for anything. The present legislature is being run by less than a score of men, who alone have had previous legislative experience.—New Age.

LATEST LEGISLATIVE NEWS.

On Friday one hundred or more wise men went to Orono and were seated and lectured by the friends and faculty of "the institution at Orono." A good time was reported and the address of Pres. Harris highly complimented.

This week the hearings have commenced in earnest, many of them being of purely incidental interest. The hearing of the week occurs to-day. It is on a proposed amendment to an act relating to the appointment of disclosure commissioners, making probate courts of disclosure instead of having disclosure commissioners. Also abolishing imprisonment for debt. This question is arousing considerable interest, even among lawyers, who generally regard the present system as faulty and oppressive to those who owe small debts and cannot afford themselves of the bankruptcy laws for relief.

The committee on education held hearings on Tuesday on resolves in favor of Parsonsfield Seminary, Leavitt Institute, Monmouth Academy, Bluehill, George Stevens Academy, Calais Academy, Cherryfield Academy, Anson Academy, Springfield Normal School, East Corinth and Lee Normal Academies, also on an act relating to the transportation of school children. It is proposed that whatever sum may be voted these institutions be deducted from the general appropriations for educational purposes. This is done to save an increase in the total amount appropriated.

On Wednesday the agricultural committee gave a hearing on the act regulating the sale and analysis of concentrated commercial feeding stuffs. This act is additional to that of 1897 and provides authority for more thoroughly enforcing the law.

The hearing over the bill to annex Deering, &c., to Portland was largely attended and ably conducted. The impression is now that Greater Portland will soon be the proper term.

It is claimed that the committee on division of towns is in favor of annexation of Deering to Portland.

A lively fight is on between Bangor factions over a new bridge across the Kenduskeag within the city limits. At the hearing before the committee on education, Tuesday, in behalf of grants to the academies, George F. Hill and Ira W. Davis of Corinth, appeared for the East Corinth academy; Judge C. C. Chase for Blue Hill academy, C. L. Andrews for Monmouth academy, E. A. Reed and J. D. Murphy for Lee Normal academy, E. C. Ryder for Springfield academy, and Dr. J. W. Dearborn for Parsonsfield academy.

Hon. A. M. Spear of Gardiner who appeared in behalf of Monmouth academy made some remarks in reference to the general question of the propriety of extending State aid to the academies. Mr. Spear referred to them as the bridge over which many a poor boy has made his way to success. They filled a place which no other kind of schools can fill. They graduated men who had won success in all the walks of life.

After the hearing Mr. Spear said that now, as in previous years, he was willing to go to record as the friend of the academies. Mr. Spear carried the war into the enemies camp. "The free high school system," he said, "is a mongrel system in many cases. Under it towns have established schools which are high schools only in the sense that they are the State aid. In other cases, the attempt to establish high schools has led to bickering and jealousy in the towns over the question of location. The old academy gave an education which fitted a man for the duties of life. The new high schools do not fit a man for anything in particular. When the high schools were first established, said Mr. Spear, a severe blow was dealt at the academies. Now, since the State has been extending its aid, these old time schools of sterling worth have been again doing valuable work and I am in favor of the continuance of the present policy."

The committee on education have not yet acted on any of the academy appropriations, nor have they voted on Judge McFadden's proposition to submit an amendment to the people at a meeting for these institutions unconstitutional. The committee will meet at eight o'clock Friday morning for an executive session.

There was a lively tilt of the session between members of the Lincoln county delegation, Tuesday, over the question of the reference of salaries to the committee on salaries. Mr. Peaslee of Wisconsin wished that county delegations retain the right to consider the matter of salaries relating to their own county officers. Mr. McFadden of Dresden contended that all questions of salaries should go to the newly-created joint special committees on salaries. On a vote, Mr. Peaslee's proposition prevailed.

The spiked boot matter will come up in a new form. A bill will be drafted providing that no person shall wear spiked boots or shoes in public places without the consent of the owners or agents under a penalty of from one to ten dollars. Copy of act must be posted at the time the trespass is committed.

The outcome of the fight over the salaries of the Supreme Court judge is that the committee report an increase of \$500 instead of \$1500. Meanwhile the protests pour in from the patrons all over Maine.

The Committee on Legal Affairs are considering the bill relating to the election of selectmen for a term of three years. Maxwell of Richmond, author of the bill, stated its provisions, and urged the passage of the bill. This would insure two members of experience, and leave but one to be elected yearly after the first year.

Without a whisper of opposition the \$225,000 resolve in favor of the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital passed the House Wednesday morning.

MANY PEOPLE CANNOT DRINK

coffee at night. It spoils their sleep. You can drink Grain-O when you please and sleep like a top. For Grain-O does not stimulate; it nourishes, cheers and feeds. Yet it looks and tastes like the best coffee. For nervous persons, young people and children, Grain-O is the perfect drink. Made from pure grains. Get a package from your grocer to-day. It is in place of coffee. 15 and 25c.

For the Maine Farmer.

WHAT THE PEOPLE WANT.

The carefully worded, dispassionate editorial of the Maine Farmer, in its issue of Jan. 28, ought to stimulate thought and produce results. I refer to "A Complicated Problem." In this editorial it is incidentally stated that "the able utterances of Gov. Powers" have been complimented by the people of Maine, &c. Now, what plain people want more than "able utterances" is able acts! Why did not the governor vote the ten-year \$200,000 for the so-called "Agricultural College"? Why can he not vote \$225,000 for that Bangor hospital? How would it do to apply the same remedy—or else call for details—to that "Miscellaneous" business in the State Treasurer's report which "bobs up serenely" to the tune of \$18,000?

Why does he not apply the same remedy to the thousand and one things, too numerous to mention, which, in less than a decade, have increased the expenses of the State between three and four hundred thousand dollars?

Why, my dear Farmer, you mention a 2½ per cent tax! We, in this town, have already passed that point, and passed it in debt, a debt which expert (?) local accountants vary from sixteen to twenty-eight thousand dollars! Either the farmers of Maine, I mean the average farmer, are the most misunderstood of its citizens, or else many who write and speak about them are colossal liars!

There is much work done in Maine which is pretended to be in the interests of farmers, and it does "not amount to a hill of beans!" It is slush and rot, and the benefit comes to those inside this work, who, with their electrodes, contrive to get an easy time and good pay out of those men whom they profess to benefit. These are plain words, but they are the words of sincerity, even though they may be the words of ignorance! Cui bono? What is to be done?

One thing can be done: If the rights of tax payers are not to receive as careful consideration as are personal and public interests, then let the farmers of the State put such men into places of power as will take a little heed to the tax payers' interests. There are farmers enough in Maine to do this; all that is needed is united action; and it is a matter of small consequence who these men are politically, whether Democrats, Republicans—or sinners; there will be a unanimous sufficit of sin and selfishness in the best selection that can be made. "Things are never settled till settled right." D. F. HODGES.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

In the Farmer of Jan. 26, in an article in relation to Farmers' Institutes, it reads as follows: "Under Sec'y Gilbert, the appropriation for this purpose was \$1400, and this sum being increased to \$3000 in 1890, enabled Sec'y McKee to hold the past year 47 institutes against 32 under the old appropriation." Some readers might not understand how Sec'y Gilbert could run the institutes for \$43.75 each, and Sec'y McKee used about \$44 each to run them, a difference of over \$20. I can perceive how this could be done, but would it not be well to have it explained in the Farmer?

Lincoln Co. K. Y. Z.

Sec'y McKee's report to the Board of Agriculture, at the annual meeting, shows that 47 institutes were held at an average cost of \$22.74, a total of \$1068.78. The State Dairy Conference cost \$766.64, and 15 test meetings at \$5.55 each, \$83.25, making a total to be charged to institutes \$1898.67. The entire appropriation of \$3000 was drawn, the balance being used for other purposes by the Secretary. It may be said by way of explanation that Sec'y McKee has relieved chiefly upon the instructors at the State College, and in this way kept the item of cost of the individual institutes extremely low. Had the entire appropriation for institutes been expended for this purpose about one hundred would have been held.

MAINE'S INSURANCE LAWS.

Hon. Enoch Foster, one of the ablest jurists of the present time, has written a letter to Representative Morey, endorsing the bill repealing the arbitration clause in our standard insurance policies.

Judge Foster says: "To-day, by this law of 1895, they are made binding and effectual on the parties accepting such policy. As I have said, the decisions of our highest courts rendered prior to 1895 are no longer authority in determining the rights of the insured. If the assured, after making with a loss by fire, is not satisfied with what is offered him, he is met with this condition, and finds that the only way he can have the amount of his loss determined, is by three men, selected as stated in the condition, and he is bound by the amount which two of those men may bring in, or refuse the third man may dissent or enforce the award, and that amount, so found by a majority, is binding and conclusive."

There is no appeal to any other different or higher tribunal, and all this he has agreed to, as the law now stands, by becoming insured. I do not believe in such bartering away of individual rights."

The whole question resolves itself into the simple problem whether twelve men in the jury box can give better justice than three, one of whom is to be selected by the party insured. Beyond this is the expense of litigation and legal fees which will surely eat a large slice out of the sum awarded by the court. In one case the lower finds the average award of three men and in the other of twelve. Somehow the whole thing savors of a plea for special legislation to increase the revenue of the legal profession.

ROUND ADVICE.

A leading physician of Portland has been giving the ladies of that city some wholesome advice and valuable suggestions. Among other things he says: "Give acute diseases a full and water, a pall of milk and time, and nine cases out of ten they will get well themselves. Doctors do not cure, neither do drugs. Drugs often relieve the organs that are congested and nature cures. In regard to broken limbs he said a broken bone must be put in place and kept there until nature can get in her work. All the doctors, drugs, prayers and wisdom in the universe could not heal nor knit together the broken bone. Nature alone can do this."

City News.

—Street Commissioner Cottle had the misfortune to break his collar bone Monday.

—Rev. C. A. Hayden is seriously ill with erysipelas, but his host of friends will hope for a speedy recovery.

—Two of Augusta's young men, Mr. Harry Bradbury, and Fred S. Blake have gone to Cuba, to work at their trade, cabinet makers.

—A large audience attended the lecture by Hon. Herbert Heath, upon "Daniel Webster," at the Congregational chapel, Sunday evening. It was an able review of the stronger events in the life of one of New England's greatest men.

—Prof. S. I. Graves left for his new field of labor in Springfield, Mass., Monday, bearing the good wishes of every citizen. His labors for education have been attended with marked results. At the teachers' meeting, Friday, Mr. Graves was the recipient of a number of beautiful presents.

—For public safety and comfort the city officials should see that the high and icy banks along the electric railroad tracks are cut down and the streets rendered more safe for teams. The attention should be given at once, or a serious accident may cause a big bill for damages.

—The best wishes of a large circle of friends will follow one of our promising young men, Mr. Herbert Danton, who, with an intense love for art has entered the Cowles Art School, Boston. Many of Bert's free hand sketches and caricatures have been reproduced in our magazines and newspapers and a bright future is before the aspiring and worthy young man.

—The Universalist Society is to be congratulated on having conducted a three-day's carnival without soliciting for a single vote or ticket in any school, quilt, watch, cane or sofa pull. It was a pleasure to attend a first class entertainment and be free from all these objectionable features. The complete financial success demonstrates the wisdom and ability of the ladies who so successfully carried through the details.

—The assault of one insane patient upon another, in one of the halls at the Insane Asylum last week, but emphasizes the importance of affording ample protection, and even then shows how utterly impossible it is to guard against such sudden attacks. Twenty inmates are kept in each hall, the doors being open during the day, and two attendants are present at all times and required to watch carefully the inmates. The instant time necessary to wrench an iron arm from a settie and strike a fatal blow, could hardly have been guarded against. It proves the danger of allowing an insane person his liberty and justifies the increased expenditure, over twenty years ago, for watchful protection and supervision.

County News.

—Mrs. Mary A. Sawtelle, Dean of Colby College, has resigned to devote herself to literary work.

—Winthrop loses one of its oldest inhabitants by the death of Mr. G. W. Webb, who died on Saturday.

—The semi-annual convention of the Y. P. S. C. E. of Kennebec county held at Winslow last week was in every way a success, the attendance being large.

—The carpenter shop of George C. Jennings, at East Winthrop, was destroyed by fire, Friday night. The fire is supposed to have caught from a spark from the stove.

—Mr. J. B. Atherton, a brother of W. P. Atherton, Hallowell, is one of Hallowell's most important and influential citizens having a large and well established business interests.

—Should Dr. Lyman Abbott be secured for a lecture in Hallowell, as now contemplated, many of the citizens of that city will be glad to hear the noted divine to see and hear this noted divine, chiefly from liquor sellers.

—Judge H. K. Baker of



CHAPTER I.

ALEC HOWE LEAVES HOME.

Alexander Howe, Sr., had come to New York from the country 20 years before. He brought with him a faithful wife and two little boys, of whom the younger was named for his father and familiarly called Alec. Mr. Howe had prospered and was now a successful and well-to-do merchant. After ten years his wife had died, and he had taken another, a lady of some social pretensions, through whom in time he hoped to gain admission to the upper circles. By her he had another son, who was in a fair way to be spoiled by the doting attentions that were lavished upon him.

Alec had been sent to college, and now for a whole year he had been a bachelor of arts, wondering what in the world he should do with the inheritance. His father had offered him a place in his business, with an ultimate partnership, but the confinement of the office did not agree with him. Besides, he did not altogether like his stepmother. She was a good woman in her way, but she said his manners were vulgar; she tried to impose upon him habits which were uncomfortable, and, worst of all, she did not get along with him. For love's sake he would have done anything she desired of him, but she did not love him, and her only refuge was the authority of her superior position. She used it as gently as she could, for she meant to be kind and considerate, but the friction became greater and greater until Alec felt he could no longer bear the sheer discomfort of his position.

The elder brother had not gone to college, but had engaged business early and now was a partner in his father's establishment, with a wife and family of his own. Mr. Howe was proud of him and wished Alec to follow in his footsteps. But Mrs. Howe was a strong subject for disagreement. Mr. Howe liked her well enough, though he had not the passionate love for her he had cherished for his first wife, but he was ambitious to establish his family in the upper ranks of society, and she was the one means of doing it. Through her lay his ambition, and she, who had been poor, shared his dream with him. At first the plan had been to make Alec the social representative of the family, the proud and shining star, and for that purpose he had been given a good education. But he was disappointing expectations, and not unnaturally Mrs. Howe was thinking more and more of the prospects of her own child. But Mr. Howe still clung to Alec.

"Father," said Alec one evening, when they had come home from business, "I'm going to study law. I'm tired of business. I lead a dog's life, and I'm tired of it. I've stood it as long as I can."

Mr. Howe was silent.

"I can have chambers with Forbes—my class in college, you know. Things will go better at home when I'm away, I fancy."

Still there was silence where Mr. Howe sat, and Alec ventured to look at him. He saw a dark cloud on his father's face and began to tremble. But he took courage, and with sudden determination he sprang to his feet, and turning his back cried:

"I've made up my mind. I'm of age and mean to do as I like."

Mr. Howe rose also and began walking about the room. At last he spoke:

"If you leave the business and your home, you need not expect that I shall foot your bill."

The old gentleman walked heavily and down. He was not hard hearted or obstinate, but he didn't know what to do, and Alec's manner was highly disrespectful.

Mrs. Howe entered. After staring at the two for a moment she exclaimed:

"What in the world has Alec been doing now?"

"I shall not trouble you much longer. I have decided to go away," said Alec, turning.

"Go away? Where will you go? Do you intend to lead an idle life at your father's expense?"

"I had intended to study law," said Alec calmly.

"I should think your father had spent enough money on your education already," sneered Mrs. Howe, taking a seat on the corner of a sofa. "Do you approve of this move, Alexander?" she inquired of her husband.

"If he leaves his business and my home, I've told him that he must look out for himself hereafter." The old man's voice wavered, and he would have been glad of the slightest excuse to recall his words, but in a moment Alec had made that impossible.

"Very well," he cried, turning to face both his parents. "I will leave this home, and it shall be on Monday morning. I hate it, and I'll stand it no more. Ever since I came home from college she has nagged me and nagged me till I've come to hate this whole institution. I shall not put either of you under the painful necessity of turning me out. I'll go myself, and ask no favors or consideration of anybody."

With that he turned on his heel and left the room. Then his father and stepmother looked at each other. She disliked the boy, and exulted at the idea of being rid of him. But she murmured:

"Let him go. A little of that sort of thing will do him good and may bring him to his senses."

So Mr. Howe suppressed his paternal yearning, and Alec's fate was decided. He would never eat his own words, nor would he come back begging and cringing. He would make his living or die struggling. Physically he was slight and thin and pale, but he had a mighty determination and a vein of buoyant hope that usually carried him through difficulties.

Once in his own room he began to reflect on his position. Without money, the law must evidently be given up. He had something less than \$10 in his pocket. From that he must make his fortune. But how? Where? His determination had been taken suddenly, and he had no plans.

The following week he was to have taken his summer vacation among the New Hampshire hills. He loved them perhaps better than any other place he

knew, and had gone to one or another part of them for four successive summers. At first he thought that his vacation must be postponed. But then he thought, Why not go and work in the hayfield for the summer and take time to think matters over? He remembered what fun it had been to follow the hay cart around, now and then pitching on a forkful of hay, or dragging the big rake for the scatters to help on the men a little. Of course till now it had always been in fun, but why not do it for money, getting a delightful summer in the country and earning something besides?

There arose doubts about the summer being so delightful under such laborious conditions, but the more he thought of it the more the idea fascinated him, and he immediately set to work to collect a tramp outfit. A rough, strong suit of clothes was selected, one which he had formerly bought in the country, and he found an old felt hat that had come from the country too. He had a knapsack, which he had used for tramping in times past, and this he filled with such necessities as he had heard that genuine tramps carried, such as a tin dipper, a tin plate, a fork, a big pocket-knife besides the smaller penknife he always carried, a teaspoon, some pepper and salt and a few other things. With the little money he had he would buy a ticket to the Ranges, and then he would have a little over \$3 left to provide for living necessities till he could find work, which he thought would not be a difficult matter, as it was just about time for haying to begin, and he knew that extra hands were always in demand for haying.

On Saturday night when all these things happened, and Sunday was spent quietly in making preparations. He came to his meals either before or after his father and mother ate theirs, and they did not see him once all day. They did not believe he would go on Monday, as he had said he would, and hourly looked to see his penknife slip out of his pocket. For love's sake he would have done anything she desired of him, but she did not love him, and her only refuge was the authority of her superior position. She used it as gently as she could, for she meant to be kind and considerate, but the friction became greater and greater until Alec felt he could no longer bear the sheer discomfort of his position.

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On the water in the moonlight. A more beautiful or romantic situation for a young man to tell the story of his love and ask the young woman of his choice to share his life could not be imagined.

The young woman of choice could be ever so romantic and their married life very unhappy. There are common sense considerations in the good health of both parties to the sacred tie. The young man who is in the incipient stages of consumption commits a crime if he marries before he is restored to health. He condemns his wife to the life of a nurse and his children to early death, or lives of sickness and suffering. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures 98 percent of all cases of consumption if taken in its earlier stages. This is its record established during the past thirty years. It is the great blood-maker, flesh-builder, nerve-tonic and restorative.

The young woman who suffers from weakness and disease of the delicate and important organs that make wifehood and motherhood possible has no right to answer "Yes" to a young man's proposal until she is thoroughly restored to health in a womanly way. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription prepares a woman for wifehood and motherhood. It makes her strong, healthy and beautiful. It gives her the health, strength and vigor. Thousands of women have testified to its merits.

"My daughter," writes Mrs. A. M. Thomas, of Little Rock, Ark., "has been under your care for four years. Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, which cured me, also cured her."

ly for any possible danger, and seemed to eye Alec with a questioning look. Then he took a quick little sip of the water just where it fell over the edge of the stone, and suddenly hopped quite into the pool and splashed himself all over with the water, shaking his feathers and flapping his wings, and rolled around in the little earthy basin till it was all muddy. Then he bopped out and shook himself and stood for some time plucking his feathers.

A striped squirrel came out on a branch directly above his head, and, sitting upright on its haunches, looked down at the bird with a questioning look. Alec could barely see its breast and foot and nose, it began to crack a nut and drop down pieces of the shell. It was a butternut from last year, and was rather a tough nut to crack apparently, and finally the squirrel lost its grip and the nut came tumbling down almost on to Alec's face.

He did not know how tired he was until he had stopped thinking about his difficulties and had lost himself in the baby playings of the things in the woods. But now he discovered that his back ached, his feet were sore, and his brain too weary even to try to think any more.

The sun was going down and he did not know where he would sleep that night or where he could get anything more to eat. He was hungry, for biscuit and cold meat were not altogether satisfying to one who has lived under so good a cook as Mr. Howe employed. Alec hastily folded up his blanket and put it in his bag, and after taking a little drink of water from the spring set out on his journey.

In the course of a mile he passed several houses, but they all seemed extremely desolate to his eyes. They were very low and without any eaves to speak of, all on the plain, square model, with a long shed reaching out behind to a barn that was usually bigger and more modern and indeed less desolate looking.

Alec arrived at the Ranges not long after noon, thoroughly tired out with the hard ride on the cars. He had brought some biscuit and cold meat, on which he lunched, and he still had a few pieces remaining in his bag, which he ate as he walked on.

There was a great crowd at the railway station, and they stared at him curiously. It was a strange sight to see a young man with white, delicate hands and pale face dressed as a tramp, with an old slouch hat on his head. So Alec hurried off along the road that seemed to lead northward, for he had been told to direct his course toward the White mountains. The rough board cafes and cottages and the general paraphernalia of a camping ground seemed a blemish on the beauty of the surrounding forests and of the broad, smooth lake stretching away between the hills of islands as far as the eye could reach. But he soon left them behind, and though the road was hot and dusty it was a great relief from the jolting of the cars and the obnoxious crowd. Alec was fond of walking, and he swung along in an easy stride, perhaps trying to get away from the oppressive sense of loneliness which he felt coming over him.

He felt much like a man who has put out to sea in a rowboat. He had left the world behind, and had only a \$2 bill between him and starvation. To be sure he might send to his father, but he thought before he would do that. He thought of getting work, but he vaguely realized his own incompetence and physical weakness. He was an athlete in college, but athletic strength does not seem to help a farmer much. Still if it were work or starve, no doubt he would manage in some way to work.

When he had walked about five miles along a road now shut in by tall pines and elms and chestnuts, now open to the pouring heat of the sun, and with only occasional refreshing glimpses of the lake whose western border he was skirting, Alec suddenly came with delight upon a cool looking little spring beside the road, that came out in a small cold pool at the foot of a big pine tree, and then fell about 18 inches in a miniature cascade over a projecting stone, and ran off down the side of the road to a little brook beyond. He threw himself on the soft, thick bed of pine needles, thoroughly tired out, and held his outstretched arms up till it was filled with water, which he drank at single draft. It was cool and sweet and so refreshing. After waiting a few minutes to rest he took out his remaining biscuit and cold meat and ate them, and winding his blanket about him lay down for a nap on the pine needles.

Pretty soon a robin came down and stood by the spring as if it were contemplating the possibility of taking a drink. It stood solemnly upright for a few moments, as if listening profound-

ly, and then it came to a farmhouse that seemed, now inviting, or he was so tired now that he saw what he wanted to see. There was a wide yard, and back of it a big barn with wide open doors. On the left was the long, low house, and in the kitchen doorway stood a very fat, presumably benevolent looking woman, who seemed to be waiting for him. Even the dog, who was wagging in the log trough before the pump or in washbasins on a low bench beside the kitchen door. There were three men, or rather two men and a boy. It was

the boy who was washing in the log trough. One of the men was white haired and much bent. The other was perhaps 40 and had a long, ragged, sandy beard. But he was very rugged and upright and talked as if he were the head of the house.

As Alec approached the woman in the doorway she stood silently staring at him, but the men went on washing, though they stared out of the corners of their eyes, and as they wiped the water off on the single long towel they held between them all looked critically at the strange lad. But none of them spoke.

"I wanted to inquire," Alec said, "if I could perhaps get a night's lodging—mean some work here. I've come from New York, and I thought you might need some help, or I could be allowed to stay here tonight—if I paid a little something for it." This Yankee bargaining did not come at all natural to him, but he added the sentence about pay when he saw no sign of interest or response on the faces of the four people—or rather the three, for the boy was behind him.

"Come from New York, have you?" inquired the woman at last, in a tone that was meant to be friendly.

Alec made no answer, for none seemed to be demanded. But he quaked inwardly as he wondered what they were going to do.

"You didn't walk all the way?" inquired the man.

"I came on the cars to the Ranges, and this afternoon I have walked from there," said Alec quietly.

"A good bit of a walk from the Ranges," remarked the old man.

"When he was young," said the old man, "I was a good one, and he promptly responded:

"Yes, I'm going home. I've got to go up across Vermont to Lake Champlain, and I expect to walk most of the way."

"Well, you are a plucky one," remarked the old man, turning away, while Alec smiled in his sleeve at the very simple mendacity. "Take the lad in, Martha, and give him a bite to eat," the old man went on. "He looks pale, like all these city lads."

"How long you been in the city?" he inquired, turning again to Alec.

"Pretty nearly all my life," was the answer.

Martha stopped to ask more questions, and the man with the long beard asked some, finally inviting Alec to sit down on the bench and get rested. He inquired his name, and Alec gave it.

"If you want supper as well as a bed, it will be 10 cents extra," said Martha, coming to the door. "I suppose you expect to pay a quarter for the bed."

"Ten cents is rather low for supper, but seeing you are going home and have to walk all the way I thought I'd make it 10 cents reasonable."

Alec grunted a weary assent, but his heart sank within him that none of them had said anything about the work he was going to do.

They seemed not to have any interest in him after they had satisfied their curiosity, and when he sat down to the table with the others nobody addressed him except to urge him to "have some more" of the hash or the stewed prunes or the rhubarb pie or the corn bread.

They said that if he didn't eat more he would starve, and he got up and ate a little more of the hash and corn bread on his plate until he was sickened at the sight.

"You aren't sick, are you?" said Martha.

"You don't seem to have any appetite at all. I never saw the like in a boy of your size. But you do look awfully pale."

Perhaps, mother, you'd better fix up some ginger tea for him," suggested the sandy-headed man, whom they called John. But Alec protested so vigorously that Martha reluctantly gave up the idea and soon after tea showed Alec to his room, saying he had better go to bed and get rested, and maybe that would do him good, but these city boys were always white looking.

The room was in the attic and only about six feet high, though tolerably wide and long. The door was perfectly bare and had been painted once, though the paint was now nearly worn off. There was one window in the room, with small panes of glass, and the lower sash was held up by a middle bar. The room was old fashioned, with four round posts that stood straight up at each corner, but with no pieces across at head or foot. The side pieces were round and did not support the slats, which were laid on wires strung on each side from head to foot. There was a big, stuffy, straw filled mattress, which lay on the floor. There was a small bedstead which could be let down, and a small table with a round hole in the top for a bowl, but no bowl. The only adornment the room could be said to have was the bright, yellow, and so on to the room was old fashioned, with four round posts that stood straight up at each corner, but with no pieces across at head or foot. 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DOUBT, TRY
ine Pills
They have stood the test of years
and have cured thousands of
cases of Nervous Diseases, such
as Debility, Dizziness, Sleepless-
ness and Vertigo, Atrophy, etc.
They clear the brain, strengthen
the circulation, make the digestion
perfect, and impart a healthy
color and roses are checked permanently. Unless patients
often suffer from nervousness, Consumption or Death.
For a time we offer one of our \$3.00 Mag-
ic Pills for a trial.

Want
wife?
Do!
The Farmer
and either of
es for only
50.
T ONCE.

ance and faithfully studied.
Once, Theodore remembered a shout of
laughter was raised when nine o'clock
came by Jerry's exclamation:
"Oh, mother! Don't go home; we are
all having such a good time!"

Five years ago, Theodore was a
child, entirely by themselves. They
studied botany. She knew the name of
every tree and shrub for miles around.
The little boys made a collection of
birds' eggs, and then began to watch
the habits of the birds. It was a
pure, simple life. It would have been
too wild and lonely but for the charms
of this devoted mother. Her hours of
loneliness were hidden from them, but
she learned to use her time in a way
to throw every energy into the day's
work of study, and create, as it were, a fresh
enthusiasm for the present hour. Her
loving nature was revealed. Each
child made her his peculiar confidant.
She became the inspiration of his life.

English history opened a wide field to
the family. One afternoon she brought
in Shakespeare to prove some historical
question. It was a rainy day, and the
boys were all at home. Jerry began to
read "Hamlet" aloud; it proved a treas-
ure that brought them into a new world
of delight. Sometimes they took differ-
ent characters for representation, and
the evening ended in a frolic, for good
natured mirth was never repressed.

First of all a preparation had been
made for the Sabbath. There was a
church in this town, but at a distance of
several miles, and during many days the
roads were not passable. She had leaned
upon Infinite Strength, gathering wis-
dom through all these experiences. The
secret of many a promise had been re-
vealed to the understanding, and above
everything she desired that the Scrip-
tures might become precious to her chil-
dren. She took up Bible characters,
bringing to bear the same vivid interest,
the same power of making them real-
istic.

These lessons were varied by a little
sketch of each Sunday to read aloud the
next. Of this Nate took hold with
special zest. None of this family could
sing, but she thought of a substitute.
The sacred Psalms, many of them, and
many hymns, repeating them in con-
cert, learning to count upon this hour
around the fire, as others do upon music.

How many of these times came to her
in later life!—a vision of the home and
of her boys as they clustered affection-
ately around her.

Time rolled on. A railroad passed
through. A village sprang up, and the
land was ready to sell. She could keep
enough for her own use, and the boys
could prepare for college. Theodore and
Nate went away to school. The old
home was kept bright and pleasant.
She, new friends came in, and now
there was visiting and social life.

Jerry stayed on the farm; Theodore
became an engineer; Nate a minister;
Johnnie went into business. Theodore
used to say:

"Mother, as I travel about, all the
stones and flowers make me think of
you. I catch sight of some rock and
stop to rejoice over those blessed things."

Nate said: "Mother, when I am read-
ing a Psalm in the pulpit, there always
comes to me a picture of those evenings
with you in the rocking-chair, by the
firelight, and I hear all your voices
again."

Johnnie wrote: "Mother, I think
everything I have come to me
through you."

When Jerry, who had remained faith-
ful, as always, had listened to his brothers,
he put his arm around her, saying
tenderly: "There will never be any one
like mother to me."

She died at sixty-five very suddenly.
Only a few hours before she had ex-
claimed, as her children all came home
together:

"There never were such good boys as
mine. You have repaid me a thousand
fold. God grant you all happy homes!"

They bore her coffin to the grave them-
selves. They would not let any other
person touch it. In the evening they
gathered around the hearthstone in the
sitting-room, and drew their chairs to-
gether. No one spoke until Nate said:

"Boys, let us pray."

And then, all kneeling around her
grave, they prayed that the mantle of
their mother might fall upon them.
They could ask nothing beyond that.

—Christian Union.

\$100 Reward, \$100.
The reader of this paper will be pleased
to learn that the dreaded dis-
ease that science has been unable to cure in
all its stages, and that is Catarrh,
which is the only positive cure known
to the medical fraternity, Catarrh being a
constitutional disease, requires a constitu-
tional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken in-
ternally, acting directly upon the
mucous surfaces of the system, thereby de-
stroying the foundation of the disease, and
giving the patient strength by building up
the constitution and assisting nature in doing
its work. The proprietors have to much faith
in its curative powers that they offer One
Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to
cure. Send for list of testimonials.

Address, F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O.
Sent by Druggists. 75c.

His family pills are the best.

SHERIDAN'S
CONDITON
POWDER

It will keep your chickens strong and healthy.
It will keep your poultry from getting sick.
It will keep your poultry from getting fat.
It will keep your poultry from getting old.
It will keep your poultry from getting weak.
It will keep your poultry from getting diseased.
It will keep your poultry from getting dead.

MAKE HENS LAY
It will keep your chickens strong and healthy.
It will keep your poultry from getting sick.
It will keep your poultry from getting fat.
It will keep your poultry from getting old.
It will keep your poultry from getting weak.
It will keep your poultry from getting diseased.
It will keep your poultry from getting dead.

This I Will Do!
I will pay \$100 reward for any case
of colic, horse ail, curbs, splints,
knotted cords, or similar trouble, that
will not cure. It is
the veterinary wonder
of the age, and every
stable should have a bottle always on
hand. Locates lameness when applied
by remaining moist on the part affected.

Tuttle's
Elixir
will not cure. It is
the veterinary wonder
of the age, and every
stable should have a bottle always on
hand. Locates lameness when applied
by remaining moist on the part affected.

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Horse.

Stephen Lander, New Portland, has a
fancy pair of colts, one by St. Croix, the
other by Redwood Boone; also has a pair
of heavy horses. Mr. Lander is one of
the forehand farmers of New Port-
land.

According to my programme of travel,
I expect soon to visit Northern Califor-
nia and see something of those vast
wheat fields, extensive vineyards and
celebrated peach orchards, of which we
have all heard. From there I may again
rehearse to you such items as I think
will be of interest.

J. P. Maxwell, Weld, is one of the old
time horse breeders of this part of the
State. He was the owner of the stallion
Black Ben, sired by Harry Knox by Lar-
kin Knox, dam by old Rising Sun. He
also owned another stallion sired by
Glenarm. Mr. Maxwell has bred many a
good one, for instance, has sold some of
them for \$750 apiece.

Mr. J. F. Ricker, Flagstaff, keeps a
pair of well mated heavy horses, and an
8-year-old mare for driving purposes;
has a valuable 3-year-old chestnut geld-
ing, sired by Bronze Boone, dam by
Black Monitor; this gelding stands 15-3
hands tall, and for symmetry of finish,
and uniform action, there are none bet-
ter. His name is Prince, and he is
worthy to stand in any horse man's
stable. Mr. Ricker has a home farm of
100 acres, and 200 acres of land away
from home. He does general farming
and makes a success of it.

The man who stands for an hour on
Broadway and watches the constant
passage of elegant turnouts realizes
forcibly the significance of the remark
so oft repeated by purchasers: "The de-
mand is only for good sized, stylish,
trappy acting, well built horses." Style
abounds everywhere, and the graceful
yet bold fold of the knee and flex of
the hock claim attention on every hand.
Speed may hold sway on the driveways,
but in the streets and parks it is that
remarkable style and finish which stamp
the well built horse king over all the
animal kingdom.

L. G. Richards, New Portland, is the
owner of a good young stallion, name
Gen. Richards. This young fellow
stands 15-3 hands tall, weight 800 pounds,
by Robert Smith, son of Hambletonian
10; dam, Volunteer Maid, 2-27, by Vol-
unteer; 24 dam by Drew horse. He has
taken a record of 2:29 for a half mile
track, and is the sire of Fascination (P)
2:29, Kanneite (P) 2:29, Cheerful
Charlie (P) 2:29, and King Pin 2:29, all
also of the dam of Gen. Richards, Helen
Chase, registered in Vol. XII (12) Ameri-
can Trotting Register, and standard bred,
sired by Pickering, and out of a Har-
binger mare. Gen. Richards is a light
bay with black points, and 2 white ankles
behind, and for symmetry of action and
make-up is hard to beat.

What is the best size of horse for gen-
eral use?

I find it necessary to buy a new pair of
horses in the early spring, and as I have
a highland farm, in some places hard and
stony, and a very hard hill to climb to
get to it, I have thought of getting a
heavy pair of horses, about 1500 pounds
in weight each.

Some of my neighbors, older men than
myself, advise me not to get large horses,
as they say that the feet of such animals
are not sufficiently strong, and thus the
horses become lame easily.

Will some of the readers of the Farmer
kindly advise me in regard to this sub-
ject?

Horses from the levels of the West do
not have as good feet as those grown on
our granite hills. The best size for gen-
eral use is a horse weighing from 1025 to
1100. If the desire is simply to lift a
load up hill then the heavier horse will
do more service, but for the family use
the medium sized, blocky built, Maine
bred horse is the most enduring. The
1500 horse finds his place on the load and
not the road and while many of the
western horses are very good travellers,
they cannot stand driving up and down
our hills alongside of the smaller, and
more trappy acting animal.—Ed.

Louisville leads the way in abolishing
the long drawn out race nuisance, which
has steadily weighed against the popu-
larity of harness racing with the public.
On Tuesday, the conditions for the Sep-
tember meeting of the Louisville Driv-
ing and Fair Association were issued and
the much needed reform was announced.
Two heats will win the race, instead of
three, as heretofore. The public will
get action, and it will be fairly impossi-
ble to string a race out to seven or more
heats, and by tiring out the speedy ones,
allow some carefully nursed
"skate" eventually to win the race. The
interminable contests, some of which
have had to be carried over to the next
day, have greatly detracted from the
public interest in harness racing, and
the innovation to be introduced by the
Louisville track has long been stoutly

argued by those who diagnosed the situa-
tion correctly and were not clings to the
shell of conservatism that clings to an-
tique methods that have been long out-
grown under modern conditions. Louis-
ville takes the initiative in what is
thought to be reform, and the outcome
will be watched with interest even by
those societies which do not this year
adopt the rule.

WINTER HORSE RACING.

A series of interesting races have been
held in Maine the past week, the purses
being paid by Mr. Geo. W. Bishop of
New York and other wealthy gentlemen
who were here to purchase a number of
fine horses. The result has been that
other buyers have been attracted and
many a man is happy to-day as he em-
ploys the dollars and looks in the empty
stall. At every place a large lot were
shown but as the gentlemen who were to
be accompanied Mr. Bishop were unable
to make the trip, the time was spent
chiefly in examining the stylish and
speedy ones and arranging for another
visit. Mr. Bishop, in spite of his years,
was the liveliest boy on the road and
kept his friends busy showing their
stock.

Mr. Jack Lyon has also taken out of
Maine several fine horses and will come
again shortly. The benefit to the horse
industry by these winter races is far
greater than is realized and the showing
of the horses on these tracks will open
the way for many a sale before May.
Maine is to-day better supplied with
good horses than any other eastern State
and buyers can find good specimens in
every locality.

THE PASSING OF THE HORSE.

The recent organization of an immense
corporation to take control of the truck-
ing business of New York City, by the
use of compressed air motors, has led
the chief promoter to declare that "the
days of the horse for service in large
towns and cities are numbered." Color
is given this statement as one surveys
the field from lower Broadway or about
the wharves when travel is continually
being obstructed and immense loss
caused by delays in transportation.
That this present congested system must
give way and business move more swiftly
there can be no question, even though
the motive power be radically trans-
formed. At the same time the state-
ment only applies to what has been the
cheaper grade of horses during the past
years. In no sense does it reach or
affect the horse so persistently urged by
the Maine Farmer during all this time.
The horse-car horse has gone, and the
medium draft is fast following his
neighbor into the field of loss to the
grower. The horse bearing so heavily
in every other department is again
pressed home to the horse breeder with
added force. The only horse to be bred
in the future with certainty of substan-
tial returns is the high class, stylish
roadster, and no combination of motors
has ever yet been able to diminish the
demand for this friend of man. As the
field narrows the demand becomes more
exacting, and it is not as easy to breed a
profitable horse to-day as it was ten years
ago, but the same law holds elsewhere,
and the beef grower, or dairy cow breed-
er feels the same exacting demand press-
ing upon him and finds that what will
not satisfy the buyer is produced with-
out profit.

Instead of modifying our position
there is the greater reason for emphasizing
the lessons so oft repeated. More
skill and less of fancy in selection of
breeding stock, more skill and less neg-
lect in growing, and more skill in train-
ing and fitting for business. These are
the universal steps to success, applicable
to man as well as horses, and necessary
everywhere if profit is to be hoped for.
Let the draft horse give way to the mo-
tor, let the trucking and hauling be de-
legated to other power, the one field profit-
able in horse growing to-day is still open,
touched and the high class roadster sells
at paying prices. The man who cannot
pay for gathering the dollars from this
field where the fancy of the individ-
ual purchaser is met by the good
sized, intelligent, courageous, stylish
animal, and the grower realizes a sub-
stantial return for his hay, grain, pas-
torage and training.

Poultry.

The man who waits until May before
setting his first broods will be a back
number when he comes to sell his sur-
plus.

Remember that Bowker's Animal Meal
is sold only in yellow bags and yellow
packages. The original; richest in pro-
tein.

Before thirty days the successful poultry
breeder of 1899 will have his pens
mated. Are you ready for a larger busi-
ness the coming year than ever before?

All business is built up and maintained
to-day by advertising. Poultry forms no
exception. The time to commence ad-
vertising is before the flocks are started
under the incubators. Write the Farmer
for special rates.

Have you selected your breeding males
for 1899? These should now be running
by themselves in warm, roomy quarters
with plenty of chance for exercise.
Build up virile energy now for the early
broods pay the larger profit and chicks
should be abundant this year by the
middle of April.

The fruit grower who desires to keep
poultry, or the poultry keeper who
wishes to grow fruit, may combine these
two different industries, with certain ad-
vantages to both. Poultry in an orchard
will greatly benefit the trees. The trees
afford shade in summer, which benefits
the poultry. The hens and chickens
keep busy in hunting and devouring in-
sects that would otherwise prey upon
the trees and fruit. The waste food and
droppings of the fowl continually fer-
tilize the ground. Grass and weeds can

not grow where poultry are confined in
sufficient numbers. The soil should be
loosened occasionally with a hoe or
spade, to carry the fertilizer below the
surface, and the poultry will do the rest.
The hen's foot in motion is the best
cultivator. No implement has yet been
invented that pulverizes the soil so thor-
oughly as the scratching of poultry.
Plums and peaches will do well in a
poultry yard. If the plum trees are
jarred occasionally the curculio will fall
to rise no more. The detestable little
Turk may be completely circumvented
with the active chickens. It is
quite possible to raise plums in a poultry
yard when it would be very difficult to
raise them anywhere else. Fine apples
and pears may be grown in a poultry en-
closure, and the fowl will carry daisy
to their insect foes. The heavy birds
will not be likely to give trouble by fly-
ing into the trees. The lighter fowl can
be prevented from flying into the trees
by clipping one wing. Hens will injure
small fruits, of course. By having two
yards to each poultry house, this can be
managed. Have fruit trees in one yard,
and small fruits in the other. When the
hens are in the tree yard the small fruits
will be safe. When the small fruits are
gathered, the hens can be turned into the
small fruit yard.

Although at first glance it would seem
that the farmer who has large eggs to
sell loses in the operation of selling by
the dozen instead of by weight; yet the
regular producer of large, fresh eggs can
always secure a fancy price for his pro-
duct, his reputation once becoming
established. Any farmer, having a
blooded flock, which, by the way, need
stand him only the cost of a good cock
each year, can secure from one to three
cents extra per dozen for his eggs if he
is in a position to market them himself.
Some people in the cities scarcely know
the flavor of a really fresh egg. Crude
carbolic acid is a good disinfectant in
the hen house. It must not be sup-
posed, however, that by liberal use of
disinfectants, no attention need be paid
to dirt. Hen houses need regular clean-
ing. They not only ought to have it;
they need it. Fermenting manure, con-
stantly receiving fresh additions will
overcome any disinfectant that can be
used with safety. The hen is almost as
helpless in snow as though she did not
know how to walk. The value of a
good, warm house, where some sun can
get in and with a dry floor will be ap-
preciated by the hens in winter and will
show in the egg production. Fresh well
water is as old as should be given to
stock. No animal likes water which it
gets at by breaking the ice. Well water
during winter is usually between 50 and
60 degrees. Many practice artificially
warming water for milk cows and for
chickens. It takes comparatively little
hot water to take the edge off of water
at nearly the freezing point.

OUR ADVERTISERS.

Mr. J. W. Lowell, Gardiner, is one of
our regular advertisers and the following
letters show how well his stock is liked
by purchasers:

WEST PARIS, Jan. 17.
"I received the bird all right. He is
O. K."
E. S. HARMON.

EAST LONGMEADOW, MASS.
"The cockerel came this morning and
is a fine looking bird. Am much pleased
with him."
A. G. CRANE.

CAPE ELIZABETH, Jan. 12.
"Bird came all right. He is just what
I want. Am pleased with him."
C. F. EASTMAN.

For the Maine Farmer.

A PROFITABLE CROP.

I intended to have written a statement
for 1898 of the proceeds and cost of
keeping a flock of 90 hens, but circum-
stances prevented. I was unable to raise
any early layers and my flock, at pre-
sent, consists of 35 hens, raised in 1897
and 20 late pullets in 1898; many of
them will not lay till spring. The first
of November, my hens commenced lay-
ing and in that month gave me 10 dozen;
22 dozen in December and to the present
time, Jan. 17, they have laid 17 dozen,
a total of 55 dozen. I call this a good
record for a flock with but a few laying
pullets. Prices for eggs have been good
all winter. As to feed, to produce the
above result I will state that the morning
meal is a hot mash, consisting of chopped
corn boiled and mixed with cornmeal,
one quart; bran, two quarts. Four
quarts of boiled potatoes are mixed
with the same amount of feed as the
clover, and twice a week 1½ lbs. of
chopped meat are added. A wazul
and a large turnip are given twice a
week. These are fed at noon, ex-
cepting the last. The last feed at three
or four o'clock is oats and peas. I am
to change a part of their food every day.
Feed sweet skim milk but every day.
Keep old plaster by them all the time. I
think they have done fairly well.

L. A. SHOREY.

THE VALUE OF GREEN CUT BONE.

Nothing else is so valuable as a feed
for egg-production as green cut bone.
Those who feel discouraged because
their hens have not laid enough eggs
should lose no time in buying a bone-
outter. The material is cheap, and no
improved, they are very easily run and
the labor is but slight. The green bone
is very rich in phosphate of lime, which
breeders appreciate.

Fowl will leave any grain or feed for
green cut bone; in fact, they seem to
smell it when the feeder approaches and
set up a singing and cackling, and de-
vour it with great avidity.

Perhaps the best bone-outter in the
market is the Mann, recently advertised
in these columns by the F. W. Mann
Co., Box 28, Milford, Mass. It runs
easily, cuts clean and strong, and is very
simple in construction. We prefer the
rib of beef, cooked in two-lb. pieces, to
take but a few minutes of hand labor to
reduce them to the proper condition for
feeding, so perfectly are the cutting-
knives adjusted. The green bone can be
bought of any butcher for one cent a
pound, and it is more valuable than a
much greater quantity of grain.

There is nothing else in modern poultry
culture that has obtained so firm a
hold among fanciers and breeders as

green cut bone. That it is not used as
much as it should be we are convinced.
A few hesitate to use it because of the
cost of the machine, but, if one stops
to consider that this expense can easily
be made in the increased egg yield, we
think this objection will be overruled.

What we require, first of all, from our
hens, is eggs; and there is nothing that
will induce laying as early and as con-
tinuously as green cut bone fed about
three times a week as a separate ration.

STATE POULTRY INTERESTS.

Maine poultry growers have for the
past twenty years been content to grow
for the markets, and to a limited extent
for breeding purposes. The annual State
and county fairs have engaged the atten-
tion of a few enterprising breeders, but
because of their local nature these have
not impressed would-be buyers who have
gone outside the State for eggs and
breeding stock. The one thing needed
to convince purchasers and attract trade,
the large poultry exhibition, has been
neglected. Never have we been more
firmly impressed with this than during
the late great poultry show in Boston.
It was a grand exhibition of all breeds,
but as usual those most valuable and
serviceable were in force, demonstrating
the fact that New England breeders are
out for business as well as fancy mark-
ings. These men receive an immense
amount of free advertising in return for
their enterprise, and naturally, buyers
are attracted.

Other breeders, having as good stock,
neglect their opportunities, and then too
often complain because their choice birds
go begging. The whole problem is
simply that of business advertisement.
The man who advertises persistently
sells his birds and his eggs. The candle
under the bushel gives no light, and the
best hens ever bred will never bring a
man the dollars save as he goes to market
with his wares. We are led to these
remarks by the fact that hardly a Maine
man was represented in the Boston
Show, while the prize winners at Calais,
St. John, Bangor, Lewiston, Gorham and
other fairs would have proven merit

